K-splitter

CREATIVE FLAIR

New programs, new icons and new arguments in the battle for desktop supremacy are all making for a hot month

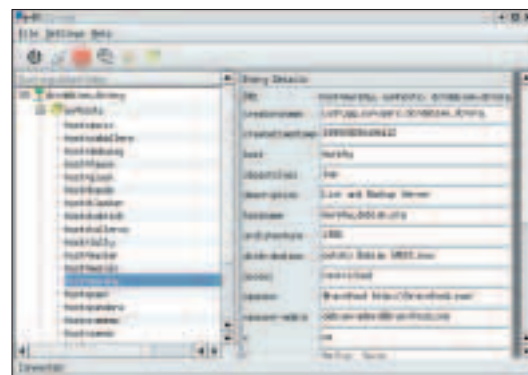## New generation of the KDE-PIM family

For a while it really did seem as if things were going to be very quiet around the KDE developers of the PIM (or to be more precise *Personal Information Management*) gang, but happily that has changed in the post-KDE 2.2.2 era. You can find out about the current status of the many projects on the ever-expanding development site at *http://pim.kde.org/* and you can take a little peek behind the scenes at *http://pim.kde.org/development/work_in_progress.php*. It's not only the core applications of the PIM project which are currently being speeded up, though, third-party developments are too.

The best example is the recently released **LDAP** administration tool KDirAdm from Carillon Information Security. At *http://www.carillonis. com/kdiradm/* those who are interested can now download the second version of this administration tool for the popular directory utility. But a little caution is in order here: the present version does not yet support any shadow passwords, and since the tool also does not allow any LDAP via SSL, all passwords which you set or check with KdirAdm can very easily be eavesdropped by a sniffer connected somewhere along the line.

A second new release will be especially interesting for fans of pocket computers. KDE Pocket PC Contacts Import 0.2 enables you to import all the contacts stored in a Windows-CE pocket PC very easily at the click of a mouse into the KDE address book *Kab*. The latest version of this useful address importer can be found at *http://www.jardino.nildram.co.uk/*.
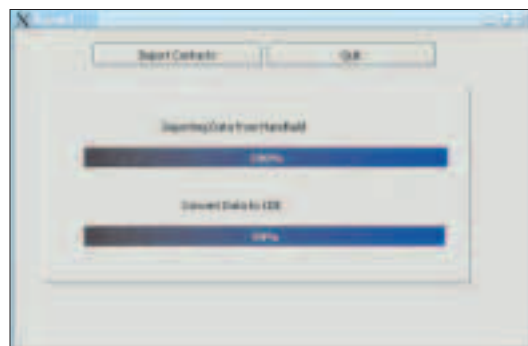

KDirAdm offers assistance with the directory utility

Anyone fortunate enough to have saved all contacts including telephone numbers in the KDE address book might still want to take a look at *Kall* (*http://ftp.kde.com/Communications/Telephony/Kall/*). This little tool selects the numbers in the address book for you by mouse click. If you like you can also drag the most important telephone numbers from Kab using Drag and Drop onto your desktop, so as to have them ready to hand, or rather, ready to click.
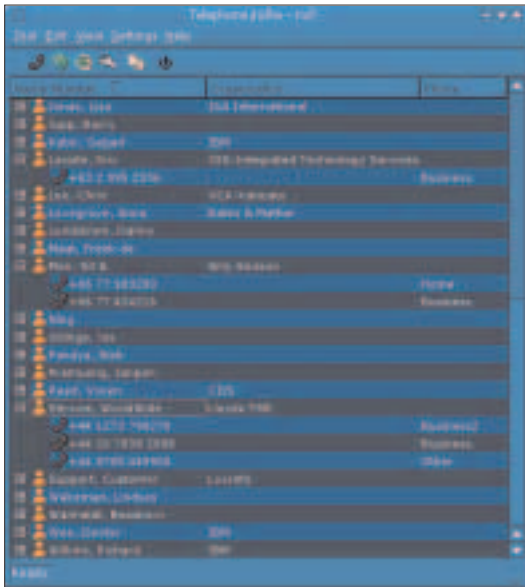
Argumentative

The KDE League has now intervened in the on-going discussion in the antitrust case against Microsoft. In a comment to the presiding judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, Andreas Pour, chairman of the KDE League, warned that if Bill Gates and co. were to reach a settlement with the US Department of Justice they

Double saves last longer

LDAP The *Lightweight Directory Access Protocol* was developed in the early 90s as a standardised directory utility protocol at the University of Michigan. The intention was to simplify access to X.500 directories, hence the "lightweight" in the name. This protocol provides a standard for communication with data storage systems on the Internet. Using LDAP, for example, email directories such as Bigfoot and Four 11 can be searched for email addresses or people's names.

Immediate connection to this number with Kall

would be less likely than ever to keep to the rules of the game of the market economy.

Pour makes it clear in his letter that KDE, especially following a "weakly-worded" ruling with no judgement, would be undefended and at the mercy of the monopoly power of Microsoft, and the Redmonders would do everything in their power to "use unlawful practices to attempt to derail KDE from full acceptance". It is especially typical to him that the US government rejected all discussions about protection for KDE right from the word go. If they had not, it is precisely KDE who could have proven in recent months that they are the most viable competitor of Windows desktop systems in the market for operating system interfaces. The full letter can be found at *http://www.usdoj.gov/atr/cases/ms_tuncom/major/ mtc-00028788.htm*, or alternatively you can download it as a PDF file (*http://www.kde.com/league/ kde_league_objection.pdf*).

Sight for sore eyes
Although functionality is always the foremost concern for computer users, anyone who works with a computer

Andreas Pour (far right) with the group of KDE developers (from left): Jason Katz-Brown, Kurt Granroth, Jim Blomo and Waldo Bastian
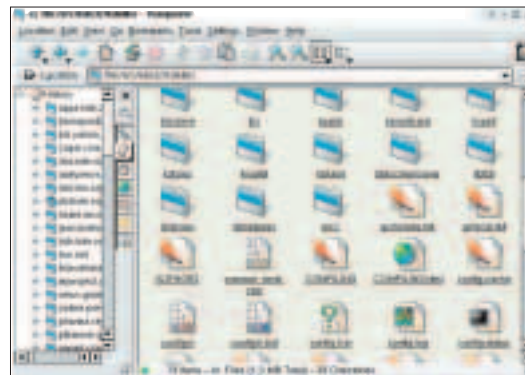
a lot also needs something to soothe sore eyes. Amongst the most customisable computer accessories are icons, so if you too are a fan of these colourful symbols, you can now look forward to using these in the latest KDE 3.0 version.

In addition to the many program innovations the developers have given the outfit a lot of tweaking. For example, work is now proceeding feverishly on the implementation of animated GIFs in mouseovers. But the static icons, too, are also being given a facelift. The leader here was once again Torsten Rahn, alias *Tackat*. In his committed campaign against the desktop monopoly he has equipped all icons which symbolise an **ASCII** file format with a little dog eared image, so as to add a little pep to what is otherwise a rather dry subject.

Artists' meet
If you feel the graphic innovations in KDE 3.0 do not go far enough for your taste, or if you prefer to design your icons and graphics yourself, then maybe you would like to become a member of the KDE Art Family. If you would, please send your proposals for motifs to the address *icons@kde.org*. If your proposals are applauded by the KDE-ers, and if you plan to become involved in the project on a permanent basis, the next step is that you will receive a CVS Account. Usually all the important changes are discussed first on the mailing list *kde-artists@kde.org*. The KDE graphics people would also like to extend the same cordial invitation to all interested hobby artists for a general chat. The group meets regularly on Mondays at 21:00 GMT. If you are interested connected the **IRC** client of your choice with the server *irc.kde.org* and join in the lively debates in the channel #*kde-artists*.

Dog eared text file icons